In addition, the State Government has also taken the following measures to protect wild animals including rhinoceros:

1. Protection camps have been increased from 130 to 146 in 2009 in Kaziranaga National Park.

2. Home Guards armed with .303 rifles have been developed for intensive patrolling within the National Park.

3. Intelligence network has been strengthened.

4. Vacant posts of front line staff have been filled up.

5. Awareness campaigns are organized in the neighbouring areas of the Kaziranga National Park.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Royalty on minerals

282. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY :
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether royalty on main minerals has been increased by now;

(b) if so, the extent of increase; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether, keeping in view the approvals/special mentions made by States and MPs of all parties on value-based payment of royalty amendments are being carried out; and

(d) by when the above announcement would be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government has notified revised rates of royalty in respect of minerals (other than minor minerals, coal and lignite, sand for stowing and uranium) in the Official Gazette *vide* GSR 574 (E) dated 13th August, 2009. The royalty rates have been increased for several minerals and at present *ad-valorem* rates range between 1.4% of sale price to 20% of sale price. The tonnage rate range between Rs. 20 per tonne to Rs. 880 per tonne. As far as coal and lignite is concerned, the rates were revised in August, 2007 itself.

(c) The revision of royalty rates was undertaken on the basis of recommendations of a Study Group constituted in the Ministry, which also included representatives from State Government concerned, Central Government Ministries/Departments and Industry Association.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.